

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN

A

NORTH CAROLINIAN

*by*

J. C. COGGINS, Ph D, LL.D.







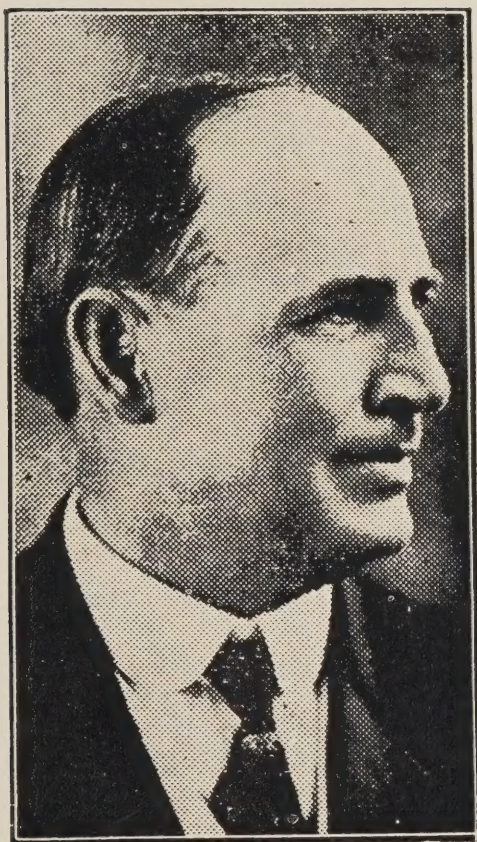
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J. C. COGGINS







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## A

### NORTH CAROLINIAN

A true and thrilling story never before published; told by a third cousin of President Lincoln who is in closer touch with the original sources of information than any one who has ever written on the question of Mr. Lincoln's origin, and the only living man who knows the name of Nancy Hanks' father.

A Buncombe County, North Carolina, Tradition

By

J. C. COGGINS, Ph. D., LL. D.,

Member of the Historical Society of N. C.

Author of "A New Philosophy of Life," "Christ's Place in the Old Testament," "The Star-Crowned Woman."

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Illustrated By FRANK B. COOK, Asheville, N. C.

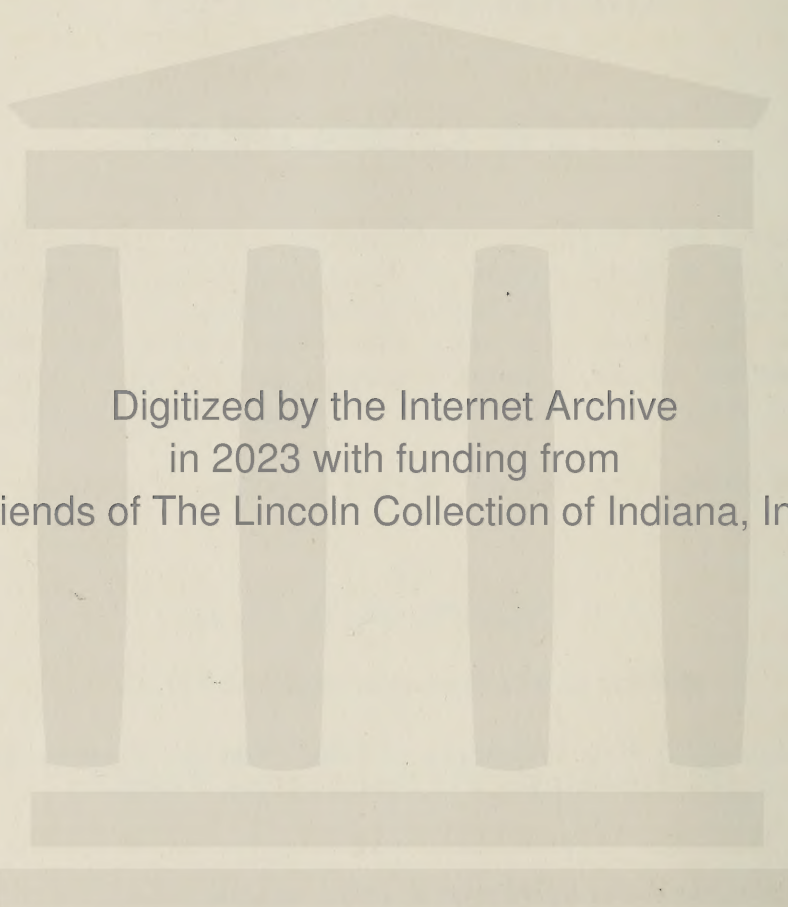
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## STATEMENTS

By

Mr. C. C. Boone, a Second Cousin of Daniel Boone,  
and Cornelius Melton, Grandsons of  
B. H. Melton.

### Mr. C. C. Boone

Mr. C. C. Boone is 60 years old his next birthday. He is a grandson of B. H. Melton and was reared on Bee Tree, N. C. He now resides at Black Mountain, N. C.

Mr. Boone was one of the best public school teachers in Buncombe county for several years and has been for years in the employment of the U. S. mail service. He makes the following statement.

"To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that I have just finished making a careful perusal of a manuscript by Doctor J. C. Coggins, which will soon appear in a book entitled, "Abraham Lincoln a North Carolinian."



With reference to the testimony of my grandfather, B. H. Melton, concerning the Abraham-Enloe-Nancy-Hanks episode, I take pleasure in corroborating the authenticity of this story as related here by Dr. Coggins.

My grandfather was so certain of his positive personal knowledge of these facts relating to the unwritten history of Abraham Lincoln, that he often discussed these things with his intimate friends.

Signed,

*A. P. Boone.*

Black Mountain, N. C., May 9, 1925.

## Mr. Melton

Mr. Cornelius Melton, also a grandson of B. H. Melton, who furnished the data for the Buncombe county tradition, was also formerly a school teacher of prominence in said county and for many years has been connected with the Asheville, N. C., postoffice. Mr. Melton makes the following statement. "To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that I have often heard the facts related by my father and grandfather that are brought out in the little book by Doctor Coggins entitled "Abraham Lincoln a North Carolinian." My grandfather, B. H. Melton, lived to be a very old man, being 96 years old when he died. He was a man of remarkable memory and was usually very correct in his statements. In regard to what he had to say about Mr. Lincoln, I would say that he was very positive. It was a matter of personal knowledge with him. Since he



spent a great deal of his time at his uncle Enloe's home, and though small, knew the girl Nancy Hanks intimately. This book presents doubtless the most correct statement of the case ever given to the reading public.

Signed,

*James C. Melton*

## **Introductory Remarks**

The writer of the following story was not aware that anything had ever been written as a demurrer to the popular theory of Mr. Lincoln's ancestry, and giving Kentucky as his birth place, until the year 1903. I was spending a little time in the mountains resting from heavy duties of a college presidency, and being engaged in conversation with a Mr. Linsey, proprietor of the Waynesville (N. C.) book store, Mr. Linsey said, pointing to a little red-backed book on the shelf, "That little book is creating quite a stir among our summer visitors and especially the people from the North. I am a Northern man myself, but that book will revolutionize this country as to the real ancestry and birthplace of Abraham Lincoln."

"Well," said I, "just hold your horses now and let me, a third cousin of this



great 'Rail-splitter,' tell you a few things before I know anything about what is in the book."

And when I had told him that a great-uncle of mine was the real father of Lincoln; that he was born in the mountains of North Carolina, and that another great-uncle of mine, a playmate of Nancy Hanks, had told me the full story, not from hear-say, but from his own personal knowledge, he reached up and taking down a copy of the book, said, "Well, you certainly know all about it, and I will present you a copy of the book."

Upon examination I found that the author, Mr. J. H. Cathey, had taken great pains to secure the evidence to prove some of the very things, but not all that had been related to me by my mother's uncle.

Since then some of the leading citizens of Buncombe County, N. C., in-

cluding Col. Foster A. Sondley, LL. D., Attorney, of Asheville, have urged me to write the story as it was given to me, to be preserved as a Buncombe County tradition.

### **Corroborative Testimony.**

The careful student of history will find a corroboration of this thesis not only by Mr. J. H. Cathey, but also Mr. W. M. Coleman, and others. In fact if one should go to the trouble and expense to secure the copies of the first editions of the Lincoln Histories one would find material that if published now would set the whole country agog with astonishment.

The original Histories and Biographies have been suppressed on account of the fact that they either told or hinted at the truth, though of an unpleasant character, that Thomas Lincoln was not the real father of



Abraham Lincoln, but was the son of Abraham Enloe of North Carolina.

We find the following statement in Horton's Youth's History of the great Civil War. "He (Lincoln) had the misfortune to not know who his father was; and his mother, alas, was a person to reflect no honor upon her child. Launched into the world an outcast, and started on the road of being without parental care, and without the advantage of even a common school education, he certainly was entitled to great credit for gaining even the limited mental culture which he possessed.

"He ran away from his wretched home at the age of nine to escape the brutal treatment of the man who had married his mother and was forced to get his bread by working on a flat-boat on the Mississippi."

The first edition of the Life of Lin-

coln, by W. H. Lamon, published by J. R. Osgood & Co., Boston, says: "His father's name was Thomas Lincoln, and his mother's maiden name was Nancy Hanks.

"At the time of his birth they were **supposed** to have been married about three years. Although there **appears to have been** little sympathy or affection between Thomas and Abraham Lincoln, they were nevertheless connected by ties and associations which make the previous history of Thomas Lincoln and his family a necessary part of any reasonably full biography of the great man who immortalized the name by **wearing it.**" Yes, he "immortalized" this name, for there has never been a man before or since that could even make a shadow for this stalwart character, among the "Link-horns."

It is claimed by the critics that this author intimated that Mr. Lincoln was

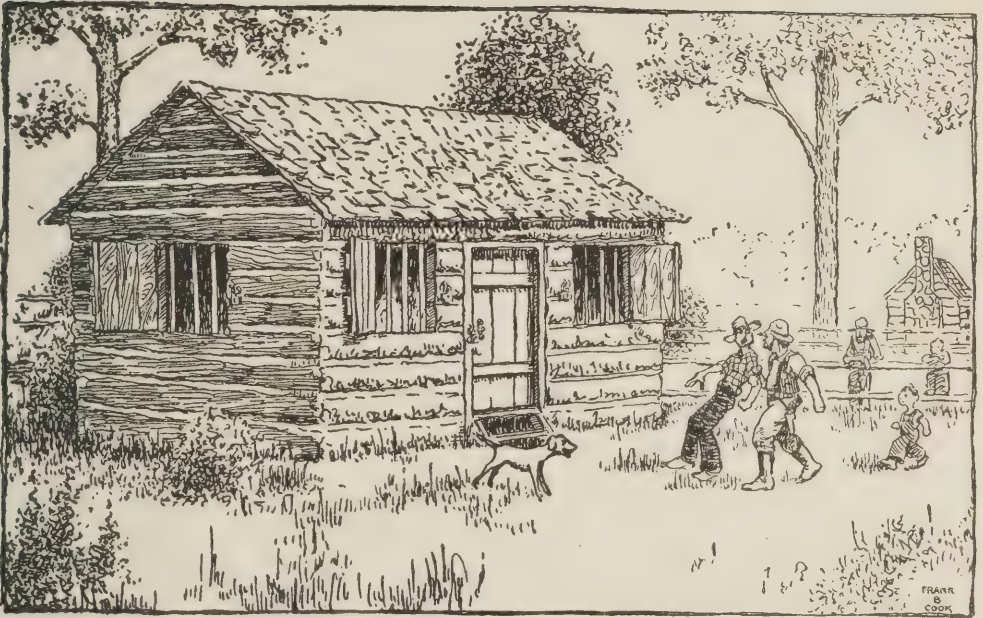
minus a legal father, and this book was suppressed.

In his first edition of *The Life of Abraham Lincoln*, Mr. Herndon says, "If the story of his life is truthfully and courageously told—nothing colored or suppressed, nothing false either written or suggested—the reader will see and feel the real presence of the man.

"If on the other hand the story is colored, or the facts in any degree suppressed, the reader will be not only **misled, but imposed upon as well.** At last the **truth will come** and no man need hope to evade it."

Can you guess, or conjecture, what that particular "truth" was that this writer thought some might wish to "evade," and in refusing to tell, the honest reader would thereby be "misled and imposed upon"? What can such strange language mean if it does not





The Rutherford county bastile where William Hanks, father of Nancy, was incarcerated for drunkenness when his daughter Nancy was placed in the family of Abraham Enloe.

involve the very thing to which we are calling your attention at this time?

It is claimed now that this original edition has been suppressed and the people are being "misled" as to the real ancestry of this great American Citizen.

Speaking of Mr. Cathey's book, Mr. Coleman says, "It is proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that Abraham Lincoln was not a Lincoln at all, but an Enloe of Scotch descent."

Evidence to prove this fact is on file and carefully preserved in the great New York Library.

Mr. Herndon, the first biographer of Mr. Lincoln, is quoted as saying, "A number of such traditions are extant in Kentucky and other localities, one that "Thomas Lincoln for a consideration from one Abraham Enloe, a miller there, assumed the paternity of the in-

fant child of a poor girl named Nancy Hanks." And the same author adds that, "A gentleman of Mount Sterling, Kentucky, who had been Judge and afterwards an editor, published a paper in support of this contention."

Here we discover a Kentucky jurist who sees the pearl of historic truth being "evaded," and "colored," and the people "imposed upon" for the sake of a false modesty and pride, and he takes the matter up in his paper and rips the false veil from the face of Truth. He had the courage to give the people a chance, who, as it were, had stood on their tiptoes and peeped through little knot-holes to get a glimpse of this great man's origin.

Mr. Lamon, the law partner of Lincoln, is quoted as saying, "There was an account of a fight between Thomas Lincoln and Abraham Enloe. They fought like savages, but Lincoln ob-



tained a permanent and signal victory by biting off Enloe's nose.

"This affray and the fame of it," continues this writer," made Lincoln (Thomas) more anxious than ever to escape from Kentucky."

Mr. Coleman, in his book, argues with good reason that this fight between these two men, one the husband of Nancy Hanks, then Mrs. T. Lincoln, and Abraham Enlow, is a corroborative proof of the story that some relation existed between Enloe and this woman and child.

It is only in keeping with the law of human nature that, if Thomas Lincoln had been hired to marry this young woman as is herein related, and he had been getting drunk and treating her and the child in a brutal manner, such treatment would naturally be resented by the one who had been instrumental in bringing about the marriage.

### **Thomas Lincoln's Jealousy.**

Moreover, the Lincoln status, in itself, would have the natural tendency to create a morbid jealousy in Lincoln, the husband. He would doubtless watch with keen eyes for letters from Abraham Enloe to his wife. And simple expressions of kindness or friendly communications from this source would likely have been interpreted as intrusions and a trespass upon the sacred rights of his (Lincoln's) domicile.

At any rate, a story carried the information that "Mr. Enloe, hearing that Nancy was in dire need, sent her as much as fifty dollars at one time."

Mr. Coleman goes farther, and says that, "One Col. Chapman, who as a neighbor and friend of the family, and who had been the custodian of the family Bible of the Lincoln's, and who knew as much about the family as any

one outside of its immediate circle, says, "Abe's father habitually treated him with great brutality."

Such unreasonable treatment of this child is taken by this author to be an expression of bitter enmity toward Abraham Enloe, with whom he had the fight, and the knowledge that he, Thomas Lincoln, was not the father of this child.

This savage battle between these two men was, evidently, not over some trivial affair. Naturally they should have been lifelong friends. But if a man loves a woman and her child is his, and he happens along and finds the little fellow with ugly bruises on his little body, and the mother can intensify the situation by showing great bruised places on her back, inflicted by him who had promised to love, cherish and protect her, with only "pine straw for her bed and no floor in the cabin



and with little or nothing to eat," such condition would put a man in fighting trim, if anything would. So, it was reported that, "They fought like savages," and from that time on poor little Abe saw a harder time still. He doubtless went up to his mother many a time and put his little arms around her neck when she was crying and asked her to tell him what was the matter. The record shows that he stayed close to his mother as long as she lived, which was not very long. For her sad heart was bleeding at every pore all the time. There was not a ray of joy for this woman.

The only gleam of light that came into her poor soul was that which was shed from Bethlehem's Star. And when little Abe was about nine years old his sad-hearted mother called him to her bedside and planted on his tear-bathed cheek her farewell kiss. She left him

as the mariner crossing the sea, for that tearless, sunny land of God's great love.

It was then that little Abe wrote his first letter. He wrote to a Methodist preacher and asked him to come and preach his mother's funeral. And "Parson Elkins" came the following spring and conducted the service. Lincoln certainly loved his mother, and ever cherished her memory as the sweetest rose that ever bloomed along his earthly pathway. He was not ashamed to speak of her as his "Angel Mother." He didn't give Tom Lincoln credit for anything in his make-up.

The sad expression that was so noticeable on Mr. Lincoln's face was fastened there when he was a child, suffering those awful trials through which he and his mother were forced to pass under the "brutal treatment" of Tom Lincoln.



Little Nancy Hanks with the Enloes, followed by other families in the ox-wagon caravan passing up through the Chimney Rock (N. C.) gorge, following an old Indian trail.



His mother evidently read the Bible to her boy and taught him to pray. For they had Bible readings in the home of Enloe where she was reared. And Abraham Lincoln became a great reader of this Book of Books. It was really the foundation of his wisdom.

This man, Coleman, introduces a great crowd of witnesses to prove the same thing that he says Cathey proved, that "Abraham Lincoln did not have one drop of Lincoln blood in him, but was an Enloe." These men represent the very best citizenry of the country. We feel that we should quote just at this point some of Mr. J. H. Cathey's witnesses as to whether Abraham Lincoln was a Lincoln.

## **Unimpeachable Testimony.**

### **“Philip Dills”**

Beginning on page 39 Mr. J. H. Cathey says, “Mr. Dills was born in Rutherford County, N. C., Jan. 10, 1808. His father emigrated to the mountains of Western North Carolina almost contemporaneously with Abraham Enloe. Although Mr. Dills was four years old when Jackson whipped Pakenham at New Orleans, he is nimble both in body and mind. He describes the removal of the Cherokees west of the Mississippi; tells of the elections when Clay and Jackson were rivals,—of casting his first vote for the latter; and recalls the personal appearance of John C. Calhoun, whom he saw and with whom he talked; the duel between Sam Carson and Dr. Vance, and many other incidents of early days he distinctly remembers and recites with genuine

gusto. Mr. Dills is a citizen of Jackson County. His postoffice is Dillsboro. He said:

“Although a generation younger and living some twenty-five miles from him, I knew Abraham Enloe Personally and intimately.

“I lived on the road which he frequently traveled in his trips south, and he made my house a stopping-place. He was a large man, tall, with dark complexion, and coarse black hair. He was a splendid looking man, and a man of fine sense. His judgment was taken as a guide, and he was respected and looked up to in his time.

“I do not know when I first heard of his relation with Nancy Hanks, but it was many years before the Civil War, and while I was a young man. The circumstance was related in my hearing by the generation older than myself, and I heard it talked over time and



again later. I have no doubt that Abraham Enloe was the father of Abraham Lincoln."

**"Walker Battle."**

Mr. Battle was born February 12, 1809, in Haywood county. His father was one of the three men who came to Ocona Lufta with Abraham Enlow. He was a highly respected citizen of Swain county. The following statement was received from him in 1895. He has since died. His son, Milton Battle, a reputable citizen, is familiar with his father's statement. His postoffice is Bryson City, N. C. Walker Battle said:

"My father was one of the first settlers of this country. He came here with Abraham Enloe. I have lived here my entire life, and I knew Abraham Enloe and his family almost as well as I knew my own.

"The incident occurred, of course, be-

fore my day, but I distinctly remember hearing my own family tell of the trouble between Abraham Enloe and Nancy Hanks when I was a boy. I recall, as if it were but yesterday, hearing them speak of Nancy Hanks' removal to Kentucky and that she married there a fellow by the name of Lincoln; that Abraham Enlow had some kind of correspondence with the woman after he sent her to Kentucky—sent her something—and that he had to be very cautious to keep his wife from finding it out.

“There is no doubt as to Nancy Hanks having once lived in the family of Abe Enloe, and there is no doubt that she was the mother of a child by him.

“No, I never saw Nancy Hanks' name in print in my life, and never saw a sketch of Abraham Lincoln, or heard

of him, until he became a candidate for the presidency in 1860.”

**“William H. Conley.”**

“Mr. Conley was born about the year 1812, in Haywood county. He lived the greater part of his life within fifteen miles of Abraham Enloe’s. He was a man of intelligence and perfect veracity. The following statement, the original of which is in the writer’s possession, was obtained from him in 1895. He has since died.

Mr. Conley said: “My father, James Conley, was the first white man to settle on the creek in this (Swain) county which bears his name.

“Abraham Enloe was one of the first to settle on Ocona Lufta. Enloe and my father were warm friends. I knew Abe Enloe myself well. He was an impressive looking man. On first sight you were compelled to think that there



was something extraordinary in him, and when you became acquainted with him your first impression was confirmed. He was far above the average man in mind.

“As to the tradition: I remember when I was a lad, on one occasion some of the women of the settlement were at my father’s house, and in conversation with my mother they had a great deal to say about some trouble that had occurred between Abe Enloe and a girl they called Nancy Hanks, who had at some time stayed at Enloe’s. I heard nothing more, as I now remember, about the matter, until the year before the war, the news came that Abraham Lincoln had been nominated for the presidency, when it was the common understanding among the older people that Lincoln was the son of Abe Enloe by Nancy Hanks.

“Not one of them up to that time had



They tied trees to the rear end of their wagons when they went down the very steep places in the trail.

ever seen a written account of Lincoln. There is no doubt that Nancy Hanks lived at Abraham Enloe's. \* \* \* To quell a family disturbance Enloe had her moved to Kentucky, just as my father and mother and others have time and again related in my hearing.

"I have no doubt that Abe Enloe was the father of Abraham Lincoln."

**"Captain Ep. Everett."**

Captain Everett was born April 4, 1830, in Davy Crockett's native county, Tennessee. He came to what was then Jackson, now Swain county, in the late fifties, and has since lived within twelve miles of the Abe Enloe homestead. He was captain of Company E, Third Tennessee. He served through the entire war, showing conspicuous courage at First Manassas. He helped to organize the county of Swain, in 1871. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1875, that amended the



Constitution of the State. He has been magistrate, mayor of the town of Bryson City, and sheriff of the county. He is well known throughout the State as one of her best and brainiest citizens. He said:

“In time of the war, in conversation with various old and reliable citizens, I learned that Abe Lincoln’s mother, Nancy Hanks, once lived in the family of Abe Enloe and was sent from there to Kentucky, to be delivered of a child. The cause of her removal to Kentucky was a threatened row between Abe Enloe and Mrs. Enloe, his wife. The people in this county—all the old people with whom I talked—were familiar with the girl as **Nancy Hanks**.

“This subject was not only the common country rumor, but I saw it similarly rehearsed in the local newspapers of the time. I have no doubt of its truth.”

### **“Captain James W. Terrell.”**

Captain Terrell was born in Rutherford county, N. C., the last day of the year 1829. At the age of sixteen he came to Haywood, where he lived with his grandfather, Wm. D. Kirkpatrick, until 1852, when he joined himself in business with Col. Wm. H. Thomas, a man of great shrewdness and enterprise. In 1854 he was made disbursing agent to the North Carolina Cherokees. In 1862 he enlisted in the Confederate service as lieutenant in a company of Cherokee Indians. Later he was promoted. Since the war he has merchandised and been a railroad contractor. He has represented his county in the legislature and filled other offices of trust and honor. He is recognized throughout Western North Carolina as a most excellent and useful citizen. He said: “Having personally had some hints from the Enloes, of Jackson and

Swain, with whom I am intimately acquainted, my attention was seriously drawn to the subject by an article in **Bledsoe's Review**, in which the writer gives an account of a difficulty between Mr. Lincoln's father and a man named Enloe.

"I then began to inquire into the matter and had no difficulty in arriving at the following indisputable facts, for which I am indebted to the following old people: The late Dr. John Mingus, son-in-law to Abraham Enloe; his widow, Mrs. Polly Mingus, daughter of Abraham Enloe (lately deceased), and their son, Abram Mingus, who still lives; also to the late William Farley and the late Hon. William H. Thomas, besides many other very old people, all of whom I believe are now dead:

"First. Some time about the beginning of the present century, a young orphan girl was employed in the family



of Abraham Enloe, then of Rutherford county, N. C. Her position in the family was nearly that of a member, she having been an orphan with no relatives that she knew. **Her name was undoubtedly Nancy Hanks.**

“Abraham Enloe moved about the year 1805 from Rutherford, stopping first for a short while on Soco Creek, but eventually settled on the Ocona Lufta, where his son, Wesley M. Enloe, now resides, then Buncombe, afterward Haywood, later Jackson, and now Swain county.

“Second. Some time after settling on the Ocona Lufta Miss Hanks became **enceiente**, and a family breeze resulted and Nancy Hanks was sent to Kentucky.

“Third. She was accompanied to Kentucky by or through the instrumentality of Hon. Felix Walker, then

a member of Congress from the 'Buncombe district.'

"There is no doubt of the truth of these statements. They were all of them well known to a generation just passed away and with many of whom I was well and intimately acquainted. The following I give as it came to me: "A probable reason for sending the girl Nancy Hanks to Kentucky was that at that time some of the Enlow kindred were living there. I was informed that a report reached here that she was married soon after reaching Kentucky.

"Mrs. Enloe's maiden name was Egerton, and she was a native of Rutherford county. Some years ago, meeting with Dr. Egerton, of Hendersonville, and finding that he was a relative of Mrs. Enloe, our conversation drifted toward the Enloe family, and he imparted to me the following:

“Some time in the early fifties two young men of Rutherford county moved to Illinois and settled in or near Springfield. One of them, whose name was Davis, became intimately acquainted with Mr. Lincoln. In the fall of 1860, just before the presidential election, Mr. Davis and his friend paid a visit back to Rutherford and spent a night with Dr. Egerton. Of course the candidates for the presidency would be discussed. Mr. Davis told Dr. Egerton that in a private and confidential talk which he had with Mr. Lincoln the latter told him that he was of southern extraction; that his right name was, or ought to have been Enloe, but that he had always gone by the name of his **step-father**.

“Mr. Enloe’s Christian name was Abram, and if Mr. Lincoln was his son he was not unlikely named for him.

“About the time of the famous con-



test between Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, Hon. Wm. H. Seward franked to me a speech of Mr. Lincoln's, made in that campaign, entitled: 'Speech of Hon. **Abram** Lincoln.' He himself invariably signed his name 'A. Lincoln.'

"To my mind, taking into consideration the unquestioned fact that Nancy Hanks was an inmate of Abram Enloe's family; That while there she became enciente; that she went to Kentucky and there married an obscure man named Lincoln, the story is highly probable indeed, and when fortified with the wonderful likeness between Wesley M. Enloe, legitimate son of Abraham Enloe, and Mr. Lincoln, I cannot resist the conviction that they are sons of the same sire. A photo of either might be passed on the family of the other as their genuine head."



They built large bonfires at night to keep off the wild animals with which this mountain country was then infested. Some sat up and watched while the other members of the party slept in the wagons.

**"Hon. Wm. A. Dills."**

"Mr. Dills is a native of Jackson county, N. C., and resides in the thriving little town which was named in his honor—Dillsboro. He is an intelligent, progressive citizen. His people have honored him with place and power. He has represented his county in the lower house of the legislature. He said:

"My information with regard to the subject, so far as this country is concerned, is traditional, as the events named occurred long before I was born.

"Several years ago, while I was teaching school in the State of Missouri, I read a sketch of the life of Abraham Lincoln, which ran as follows: 'Abraham Lincoln was born in the State of Kentucky, of a woman whose name was Nancy Hanks or Nancy Savage. His father is supposed to have been a man by the name of Enloe. When the boy was eight years



old his mother married an old man by the name of Lincoln, whose profession was rail-splitting. Soon after the marriage he took a large contract of splitting rails in the State of Illinois, where he took the boy and his mother, and the boy assumed the name of Lincoln..’ The above is a verbatim quotation of the sketch that far.

“On my return from Missouri I took occasion to investigate the old tradition to my own satisfaction. I found that Nancy Hanks once lived with Abraham Enloe, in the county of Buncombe (now Swain), and while there became involved with Enloe; a child was imminent, if it had not been born, and Nancy Hanks was conveyed to Kentucky.

“The public may read in Wesley M. Enloe, son of Abraham Enloe, a walking epistle of Abraham Lincoln. If there is any reliance to be placed in

tradition of the strongest class they are half-brothers. I have not the shadow of a doubt the tradition is true.

“For further information, I refer you to Col. Allen T. Davidson, of Asheville.”

**“Joseph A. Collins.”**

“Mr. Collins is fifty-six years of age and resides in the town of Clyde, in Haywood county. He served three years of the war between the states as a private, after which he was promoted to the second lieutenancy of his company, in which capacity he continued until the surrender. He has been in the mercantile business for twenty-five years, ten years of which he was a traveling salesman. He is now proprietor of a hardware store in his home town. He is well known over the entire western part of the State as a gentleman of the most unquestionable integrity.

He said: “The first I knew of any

tradition being connected with Abraham Lincoln's origin on his father's side was in 1867. At that time I was in Texas, and while there I made the acquaintance of Judge Gilmore, an old gentleman who lived three miles from Fort Worth.

"He told me he knew Nancy Hanks before she married, and that she then had a child she called Abraham. 'While the child was yet small,' said Judge Gilmore, 'she married a man by the name of Lincoln, a whiskey distiller. Lincoln,' he said, 'was a very poor man, and they lived in a small log house.'

"'After Nancy Hanks was married to Lincoln,' said Gilmore, 'the boy was known by the name of Abraham Lincoln.' He said that Abraham's mother, when the boy was about eight years old, died. Judge Gilmore said he himself was five or six years older than Abraham Lincoln; that he knew him



well; attended the same school with him. He said Lincoln was a bright boy and learned very rapidly; was the best boy to work he had ever known.

“He said he knew Lincoln until he was almost grown, when he, Gilmore, moved to Texas. During his residence in Texas he was elected judge of the county court. He was an intelligent, responsible man. “Years ago I was traveling for a house in Knoxville. On Turkey creek, in Buncombe county, N. C., I met an old gentleman whose name was Phillis Wells. He told me that he knew Abraham Lincoln was the son of Abraham Enloe, who lived on Ocona Lufta.

“Wells said he was then ninety years of age. When he was a young man he traveled over the country and sold tin-ware and bought furs, feathers and ginseng for William Johnston, of Waynesville. He said he often stopped

with Abraham Enloe. On one occasion he called to stay over night, as was his custom, when Abraham Enloe came out and went with him to the barn to put up his horse, and while there Enloe said:

“‘My wife is mad; about to tear up the place; she has not spoken to me in two weeks, and I wanted to tell you about it before you went into the house.’ Then remarked Wells: ‘I said what is the matter?’ and Abraham Enloe replied: ‘The trouble is about Nancy Hanks, a hired girl we have living with us.’ Wells said he stayed all night, and that Mrs. Enloe did not speak to her husband while he was there. He said he knew Nancy Hanks there, that she was a good looking girl, and seemed to be smart for business.

“Wells said before he got back there on his next trip that Abraham Enloe had sent Nancy Hanks to Jonathan’s

Creek and hired a family there to take care of her; that later a child was born to Nancy Hanks, and she named him Abraham. Meantime the trouble in Abraham Enloe's family had not abated. As soon as Nancy Hanks was able to travel, Abraham Enloe hired a man to take her and her child out of the country, in order to restore quiet and peace at home. He said he sent her to some of his relatives near the State line in Kentucky. He said Nancy and the child were cared for by Enloe's relatives until she married a fellow by the name of Lincoln.

"I asked the old gentleman if he really believed Abraham Lincoln was the son of Abraham Enloe, and he replied: 'I know it, and if I did not know it I would not tell it.'

"I made special inquiry about the character of Wells, and everyone said



that he was an honest and truthful man and a good citizen.

**“H. J. Beck.”**

“Mr. Beck was born and reared and has all his life lived on Ocona Lufta. He was one of Abraham Enloe’s neighbors, as was his father before him. He is now an Octogenarian. He is well-to-do, intelligent and of upright character. He said:

“I have heard my father and mother often speak of the episode of Abraham Enloe and Nancy Hanks. They said Abraham Enloe moved from Rutherford county here, bringing with his family a hired girl named Nancy Hanks. Some time after he settled here Nancy Hanks was found to be with child, and Enloe procured Hon. Felix Walker to take her away. Walker was gone two or three weeks. If they told where he took her I do not now think of the place.



They met with the wild Indians on Soco Creek. After considerable parleying, terms of peace were agreed upon and these children of the forest became great friends of their white neighbors. Descendants of these same Indians are now living in this vicinity and have their own school, supported by the government at Cherokee.

“As to Abraham Enloe, he was a large man, weighing between two and three hundred. He was justice of the peace. The first I remember of him, I was before him in trials. In these cases of difference between neighbors, he was always for peace and compromise. If an amicable adjustment could not be effected he was firm and unyielding. He was an excellent business man.”

**“D. K. Collins.”**

“Mr. Collins was born October 8, 1844. He was a lieutenant of sharpshooters, Company F, 69th N. C. Regiment. He is the most extensive dry goods merchant in the State west of Asheville. He is an excellent citizen and cultured gentleman. He said:

“The tradition is well-founded. I have been in a position to note its bearings, and there is no doubt that Nancy Hanks lived at Abraham Enloe’s, and that the event took place substantially



as related by the men and women who were familiar with it."

**"Capt. Wm. A. Enloe."**

"Captain Enloe was born in Haywood (now Jackson) county, and is sixty-six years of age. He is a successful merchant and business man. He is a gentleman of superior sense, modesty, firmness and integrity. He was captain of Company F, 29th N. C. Regiment, commanded by Robt. B. Vance, and served through the war. He has represented his county in the general assembly. He is a grandson of Abraham Enloe. He said:

"There is a tradition come down through the family that Nancy Hanks, the mother of President Lincoln, once lived at my grandfather's, and while there became the mother of a child said to be my grandfather Abraham Enloe's.

“One Mr. Thompson married my aunt Nancy, daughter of Abraham Enloe, contrary to the will of my grandfather; to conceal the matter from my grandfather’s knowledge, Thompson stole her away and went to Kentucky; on the trip they were married. Hearing of their marriage, my grandfather reflected and decided to invite them back home. On their return they were informed of the tumult in my grandfather’s household because of Nancy Hanks, who had given birth to a child; and when my uncle and aunt, Thompson and wife, returned to their Kentucky home, they took with them Nancy Hanks and her child. This is the family story as near as I can reproduce it from memory.

“In 1861 I came home from Raleigh to recruit my company. On my return, while waiting for the stage in Asheville, I took dinner at what was then the

Carolina House. The table was filled largely with officers going to and from their various commands. The topic of conversation seemed to be Abraham Lincoln.

“One of the gentlemen remarked that Lincoln was not the correct name of the President—that his name was Enloe and that his father lived in Western North Carolina. I maintained the part of an interested listener, and no one suspected that my name was Enloe.

“After this, during the war, and while stationed in East Tennessee, I was handed a paper with nearly a column of what purported to be a sketch of Abraham Lincoln’s early life in Kentucky—alleging that his father’s name was Enloe, and that he (Lincoln) was born in Western North Carolina.”

**“Wesley M. Enloe.”**

“Mr. Enloe was born in 1811, in Hay-

wood county, N. C., and is the ninth and only surviving son of Abraham Enloe. He resides on the same farm and in the house where his father lived when Nancy Hanks was banished from the household. He is a quiet, suave, intelligent gentleman of the old school, and a prosperous farmer. He said:

“I was born after the incident between father and Nancy Hanks. I have, however, a vivid recollection of hearing the name Nancy Hanks frequently mentioned in the family while I was a boy.

“No, I never heard my father mention it; he was always silent on the subject so far as I know.

“Nancy Hanks lived in my father’s family. I have no doubt the cause of my father’s sending her to Kentucky is the one generally alleged. The occurrence as understood by my generation and given to them by that of my



father, I have no doubt is essentially true.

“My father moved to this place (Ocona Lufta) somewhere from 1803 to 1808.”

**“Rev. S. E. Kennedy.”**

Here is the testimony of Rev. S. E. Kennedy, a former minister of the Christian Church of Davis, Indian Territory.

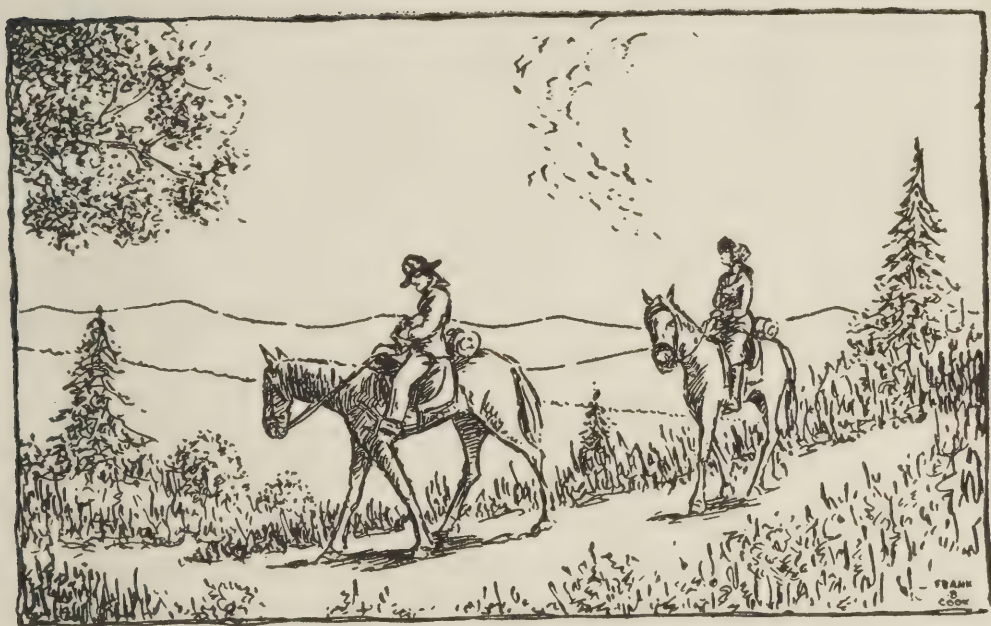
**The Davis Weekly News**, of his home town, says of him: “Rev. S. E. Kennedy is pastor of the Christian Church here, and is loved and esteemed universally by all who have the pleasure of knowing him. He wrote:

“My grandfather and grandmother, John and Fannie Kennedy, lived neighbor to Abraham Enloe in North Carolina, and were well acquainted with both Abraham Enloe and Nancy Hanks. My grandmother was born

about 1775. Her story of the Enloe Hanks embroglio was substantially as follows: 'The father of Nancy Hanks was a drunkard and was so cruel to his wife and children that he was imprisoned and made to make shoes as a punishment. The mother of Nancy Hanks was forced because of her inability to support them to bind her children out. Abraham Enloe took Nancy and a man by the name of Pratt took Mandy.

"Mr. and Mrs. Pratt were kind to Mandy, and taught her to card and spin and weave. Mandy did well and married Samuel Henson and moved across the mountains.

"Abraham Enloe became entangled with Nancy and caused her to be taken to Kentucky and to be married to Tom Lincoln, who kept a still-house there. Abraham Enlow promised to give Tom Lincoln five hundred dollars, a wagon



Hon. Felix Walker, first Congressman of Western North Carolina, taking "Little Abe" on his first horseback ride across the Great Smoky Mountain into Kentucky at the tender age of three weeks.

and pair of mules if he would marry Nancy Hanks, but after Lincoln had got drunk and attempted to kill Abraham Enloe, they compromised, and Enloe gave Lincoln a mule, a mare and fifteen dollars in money, whereupon Lincoln took Nancy and little Abe back to Kentucky, and I never saw them more.”

Mr. Kennedy says: “My grandmother lived to be near ninety, dying about the year 1866. She could neither read nor write, but possessed the most perfect memory I have ever observed. She knew Abraham Enloe before and after they moved across the mountains. Whether my grandparents came with Enloe when he migrated to North Carolina, I do not know. What was meant by ‘across the mountains’ I have forgotten, if I ever knew.”

### **The “Link-horn” Family.**

Mr. Nat. R. Anderson, of Rolling



Fork, Mississippi, wrote the author, Mr. J. H. Cathey, of Sylva, N. C., as follows: "I am a native of the Shenandoah Valley, in Virginia, Rockingham county. That State is where the Lincolns sprang from. Tom Lincoln's father migrated from there to Kentucky. Many of them are still there. They pronounced the name there Linkhorn. I never could understand how so great and good a man as "OLD ABE" could have descended from such a low breed and entirely worthless a vagabond as Tom Lincoln. I have read most of the lives of Lincoln. The best were by Ward H. Lamon and W. H. Herndon, his law partner, but these were suppressed. I am now an old man past three score and ten.

"I remember most of the stirring events since Jackson's second term; all the leading men and measures, and notwithstanding differences in our

party's affiliations, I frankly confess that no man has interested me more, from his strange, eventful and lowly life, than Abraham Lincoln.

"You are undoubtedly due the thanks of every lover of truth and respectability in the land in finding for the immortal 'Rail-splitter' an honorable paternity and strong and well defined ancestry."

### **"The Enloes."**

J. H. Cathey says:

"Three Enloe brothers, forebears of the family, landed about the middle of the seventeenth century, in Maryland. They came from Scotland and England. One of these brothers settled on Lord Baltimore's land, and reared a family. The other two went from Maryland to South Carolina and made their home in York district.

"These old Enloes were school

teachers by profession, men of liberal education. From these three men have sprung a numerous progeny, scattered over Maryland, Georgia, South Carolina,, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, California and Texas. It is remarkable the number of strong men throughout this long line. We fearlessly invite any one who may feel skeptical as to this assertion to investigate for himself. All down the line from the day when the South Carolina grandsires began to 'train the young idea to shoot,' to the present when they sit in legislatures, in Congress and upon the bench, the Enloes have undoubtedly contributed materially to the building of the Republic. They have marched in the forefront of frontier settlement, undaunted by the sternest difficulties. They have introduced civil government in the wilderness, and modestly, yet liberally, contributed to

the support of its institutions. They have helped make, construe and enforce the laws by which they have been governed. Wherever duty called, in peace or war, they have cheerfully responded. Wherever they have dwelt, they have distinguished themselves for intelligence, industry and probity.

“Wherever they have planted themselves, thrifty farmers, successful merchants, physicians, jurists and legislators have sprung up.

“Physically they are rather large, tall, slender, but rawboned as a rule, and sinewy. Mentally they are vigorous and alert, and throughout the line, in an individual here and there, there is a vein of natural humor.”

### **Should This Truth Be Told to the World?**

It has now been shown conclusively that other writers had ventured to





It was a Kentuckian that had met and loved a beautiful daughter of Abraham Enloe, contrary to the wishes of the head of the family. But love found a way, and it was the old Indian trail to Kentucky on as swift a horse as Thompson could find. The couple met at a place agreed upon up the beautiful river called Ocona Lufta. And this Paul Revere ride by the light of a midnight moon over the great Smokey Mountains was unconsciously paving the way for one of the greatest of Presidents, for the Kentucky home of this runaway couple was destined to become the first Kentucky home of Lincoln and his cast-out mother. And it was a son of this couple that Abraham Lincoln, when he was President, appointed as an agent to an important office in connection with the Indian affairs.

enter the sacred family enclosure and peep behind the doors and into the closets for the bones of a skeleton, that they had learned was hid somewhere on the Lincoln premises.

And a notable feature is the fact that the first reports in regard to this skeleton are found in the **original material** from which the Lincoln Histories and Lincoln Biographies were made up. And these facts were **published in the Newspapers and Magazines of that time, and without contradiction.**

However, there is a tendency on the part of mankind to cover up our human weaknesses, and it is difficult to get a perfectly accurate record of any great man. His friends will be tempted to omit certain facts, however important, which would mar the picture they wish to draw, while his enemies would lean to the other extreme of magnifying unduly the faults.

But the whole world is interested in men of Lincoln's type. He is esteemed today as few men who have lived. His picture now hangs upon the wall in every school house in all the land. His name has long since become a household word, found on the lips of teeming thousands of children as they pass to and from their duties in the school-room. And the most loyal and patriotic men of our country, from the Northern snows to where Southern flowers bend to plant their fragrant kisses upon the Mexic Seas, all point to this man as the most ideal of all patriots, as the greatest of American citizens. Is it wrong to let the people know the truth as to who his father was? Some have acted as though it would be an unpardonable sin to let the facts be known. But such is not the case.

It is no injustice to the memory of this great man to tell who his father

was. In fact it is really doing him an injustice to cover up the truth by telling a falsehood, and hiding his real father behind Tom Lincoln as a smoke screen.

Like Jesus Christ, who never recognized Joseph as his father, this man never showed filial affection for the man who had treated him with such brutality. For he knew that Thomas Lincoln was not his real father. Surely his mother had told him why this old liquor man was so cruel to him.

The subject of Eugenics would prove very interesting and illuminating, especially to those who have an idea that something great can come from almost nothing; that the Latin axiom, **ex nihilo nihil fit**, "out of nothing nothing comes," represents a fallacy.

But this is true, and this law will hold good in any kingdom of Nature or in the Spiritual Universe. Even the poul-



tryman will tell you that it is impossible to raise Game chickens by breeding to a common old Shanghai.

The Lincoln case is paralleled in that distinguished Englishman, J. L. Smith, who gave this country over half a million dollars, by means of which was founded the great Smithsonian Institute, at Washington City. Until after his graduation from Oxford in 1786, says Lord, in his "Beacon Lights of History," "This remarkable man was known by the name of James Louis Macie. Afterwards he, of his own accord, chose the name of his reputed father, Hugh Smith, of Northumberland," although he evidently was not a Smith at all.

Now, having laid the foundation deep, broad and strong we will proceed to build thereupon, not of old material, but an entirely new story from an independent source altogether.

## **THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA TRADITION**

**As Related by Berry H. Melton, Cousin of Abraham  
Lincoln, and Great-Uncle of J. C. Coggins,  
the Writer of This Story.**

During the past century, there lived a man in the northeastern section of Buncombe county, on Bee Tree Creek, North Carolina, by the name of Berry Melton. His mother was an **Enloe**, named Polly Ann, a sister of Abraham Enloe, **who had his nose bit off in a fight with Thomas Lincoln.**

This family so closely related was conversant with the facts that caused the fight. And their version of it was that Tom Lincoln had whipped Nancy and little Abe unmercifully."

It can be said of this man, Melton, that he was one who lived contemporaneously with the nineteenth century. For, he was born at the be-

ginning of the century and died near its close, being ninety-six years old when he died, the present writer conducting the funeral service.

Mr. Melton was a man full six feet high or more, and weighed about two hundred pounds. He was of Scotch descent, and was a very intelligent man.

He built his own mills and turning-lathes, and kept them in repair himself. With little or no school advantages, he conquered the "King's English;" surveyed land, and taught a short term of school. He could converse intelligently upon the difficult questions of Astronomy, Geology, and Natural Philosophy. He had secured books on these subjects and had carefully studied them.

He was a deeply religious man. Preaching and prayer meetings were often conducted in his home. Some of

his prayers that brought the house to tears are still remembered. The following amusing incident, illustrating Mr. Melton's bookishness and keen intellectuality, took place in the county court house at Asheville, N. C.

Having been summoned as a witness in a certain case, and while on the stand giving in his testimony, his elegant diction and heavy Johnsonian phraseology attracted the attention of the court and Mr. Melton was asked if he knew the meaning of the big words he had used. The witness replying in the affirmative, chanced to let go another verbal gem. This was too much for his Honor, the Judge, who immediately sent out for a dictionary and turned school teacher for a little while, firing the biggest words in Webster's Dictionary at Mr. Melton, who in the meantime had kept his seat upon the witness stand.



The Judge was perfectly astonished to see this mountaineer dispose of his hard words as easily as a professional ball player would handle a baseball.

This man was a descendant of the same family of Scotch School Teachers from which Abraham Lincoln came. He was Lincoln's first cousin and was perfectly familiar with the facts, **the inside facts of the Enloe family history.**

Within that inner circle of relatives, things were known and talked, **sub rosa**, that the people in general knew little or nothing about.

Mr. Melton said to me, that he knew positively that Abraham Lincoln was an Enloe; that there was not a drop of Lincoln blood in him, and that the Histories were all wrong as to his ancestry and also as to the place where he was born.

This old man talked with a fervor

and positiveness that can only go with the full conviction of speaking the truth in the face of adverse opinion.

Upon being asked how he knew all this, in the face of history to the contrary, the old man, then nearly ninety years old said: "Why, Jim, I knew Nancy Hanks when she was a little girl.

"We were children together, and we played together many a day. I knew her father, William Hanks, just as well as I do you.

"My people came from the same community in Rutherford county where Nancy Hanks was born. I knew all the Hanks family well. Everybody spoke of her father as 'Old Bill Hanks.'

"He was an habitual drunkard, and would spend every cent he could get for liquor.

"I can well remember when he was put in jail, and compelled to work for the support of his family. He was a



Enloe's daughter, Nancy, had run away and married a man by the name of "Thompson," in Kentucky. This is where Nancy and the child were taken.

shoemaker by trade and he made shoes in jail in Rutherford county. But the income from his work was not sufficient to support his family, which was rather large, and the children were taken from 'Old Bill' and bound out in different families.

"My uncle, Abraham Enloe, took Nancy. She was about eight or ten years old when she became a member of his family.

"Jim, I'm telling you what I know to be true," continued Mr. Melton. "And Nancy remained in my uncle's home until she was grown.

"I visited my uncle many times while Nancy was there. She was a very bright girl, attractive and good looking. She was rather tall and her hair was black.

"Everybody loved her, and no difference was made between her and the other members of the family. She



learned to read and write. For uncle was a man who believed in education. He was very well educated for a man of his day. His people were educated. Among his folks were doctors, lawyers, and school teachers, all descendants of Scotch teachers.

“Abraham Enloe’s sister, Polly Ann, was my mother and I named your aunt Polly for her.”

### **Moving to the Mountains.**

The moving of the Enloe’s, with two or three other families, was an important event. At that time there were very few settlers in Western North Carolina, or that part of the State lying west of the Blue Ridge. That country was inhabited by wild Indians.

And there were still to be found an occasional elk and buffalo and plenty of deer, bear, and game of smaller size. There were those who did not mind

risking their scalps in an attempt to explore and settle up this wild country, as this was then called.

In fact there was plenty of such metal in the "Old North State." She had furnished the undaunted Daniel Boone, as a John the Baptist for Kentucky's settlement and civilization; and it was the first State in the Union, or the Colonies, to come out fearlessly in its legislative assembly and make a Declaration of Independence at Mecklenburg.

"Several families," said Mr. Melton, "Came across the mountains together, my uncle Abraham, and two or three other families who were neighbors.

"One family would hardly risk going alone, on account of the wild Indians, and also so many wild and ferocious animals.

"They all left Rutherford county, and followed an old Indian trail across



After Tom Lincoln married Nancy Hanks he became jealous of Enloe and would take his spite out in beating little Abe, and when Nancy interfered he would beat her. He was very brutal in his treatment of both Nancy and her child.

the Blue Ridge, crossing at the point popularly known as 'Hickory Nut Gap,' a few miles southeast of Asheville.

"They came over in covered wagons, and their wagons were the first that were brought across the mountains into Buncombe county.

"The wagons were drawn by large oxen, two to a wagon. When they came to a very steep place in the trail, they would put all six of the oxen to one wagon, and then all hands would get behind and push, and by this means they succeeded in getting over the steep places in the trail.

"Upon coming to a very steep incline, they would cut down small trees and tie to the rear end of the wagons to prevent a runaway down the mountains.

"They often found it necessary to construct rough temporary bridges



upon which they would be able to cross the creeks and small rivers.

“At night they would build large bonfires to keep off the wild animals. There were lots of panthers in those days and these cats were considered bad property. They would slip up behind people and leap on them when they were not expecting it.

“My uncle brought with him some very large dogs, to be a guard and protection for his family. These were mastiffs and bloodhounds, and their presence had a kind of civilizing influence upon a community.

“This company first stopped on what was then called ‘Soco Creek,’ by the Indians, a few miles southwest of Asheville. Here they made friends with the Indians, after which they separated and took up land from the State.

“Uncle Abraham then moved on to a place called ‘Ocona Lufta,’ now in

Swain county, near the town of Bryson City.

“Here he built a house, and made this place his permanent home. He became well off. He bought and sold slaves, raised mules and was considered the leading man of the community. His wagon made annual trips to Augusta and Charleston for salt, sugar, coffee, and other necessary articles.

“He was a magistrate, knew a good deal about law, and from an intellectual standpoint he was easily the leader of the community. He was tall, being about six feet and two inches high.

### **Trouble in the Enloe Home.**

“Yes, Jim, I can well remember the trouble in the Enloe home. Nancy was very attractive, and my aunt, Mrs. Enloe, was a woman of culture and high ideals. She was an Edgerton. She told uncle that she saw some things that she did not like. Being a staunch Presby-

terian, Uncle Abe said whatever was to be would be, and it could not be helped. But his wife said that some things ought not to be, and that God was not responsible for everything that happened, but on the contrary the Devil was responsible for a great deal that was going on.

“To save ammunition for hard times, and coming right down to brass tacks, she told Uncle Abe, in choice English, that she wanted to see him practice what he preached, or rather what his nephew, Ashael, a Presbyterian minister, preached on, ‘Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it that he might sanctify and cleanse it by that washing water by the word.’ (Eph. 5:25). Then making a direct verbal thrust, she concluded by saying, ‘I want you to get another home for Nancy!’

“This dark cloud had been watched

by Nancy for some time. She had at times heard the rumbling of the distant thunder, as it were, and she knew what was coming.

“Poor girl, she was to be pitied rather than censured. She, unobserved, saw the cloudburst in all its fury, as Mrs. Enloe wound up her unpleasant conversation with Mr. Enloe.

“It meant for Nancy to leave the comfortable home that had been hers for a decade, to leave those she loved—and Nancy loved them all. It meant a parting never to return. Eventually, it meant her death.”

There is little doubt that the embarrassing situation in which this girl was placed played its part in stamping the sad and melancholy face upon Mr. Lincoln. This psychological condition of the mother, together with the cruel treatment to which the child was frequently subjected by Thomas Lincoln





Lincoln got drunk and tried to kill Enloe and they fought like savages. Lincoln obtained an advantage in biting off Enloe's nose.

because of his jealousy of Abraham Enloe, certainly furnished sufficient cause for stamping his honest face with a permanent sadness.

One cannot help thinking how this experience of Nancy Hanks finds its parallel in the very touching story of the girl Hagar, who had lived in the comfortable and pleasant home of Abraham of Old Testament times (Gen. 21:14-18), which says, "Abraham rose up early in the morning and took bread and a bottle of water and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder and the child, and sent her away; and she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba, and the water was spent, and the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs, and she went and sat down over against him, a good way off, as it were a bowshot; for she said let me not see the death of the child, and she sat over against him and

lifted up her voice and wept.

“And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, what aileth thee Hagar? Fear not, for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is, arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation.”

This Abraham of our story did not send his Hagar out to the mercy of the winds and wolves with no protection. He was willing to bear at least a part of the burden with her. A thing which so few men under similar circumstances are willing to do. He could have sent her back on a visit to her relatives in Rutherford county, where she came from, and let her fight the unpleasant battle all alone, but this man was not of that mould and class.

**Congressman Walker.**

“Uncle Abraham,” said Mr. Melton,

“hired Felix Walker, the first Congressman from this district, who was the author of the expression, ‘Speaking for Buncombe,’ to take her and the child, which was named Abraham, across the mountains on horseback to Kentucky, and he was gone on this trip two or three weeks.

“Uncle’s daughter, Nancy, had run away and married a man in Kentucky by the name of Thompson. They lived just across the State line, and that was where Nancy and “Little Abe” were sent. Here the girl and her child stayed until she married Tom Lincoln.

“It was known that Uncle sent money over there for Nancy’s support, as much as fifty dollars at a time. And he made an occasional trip to see the folks, and in the meantime he built a mill over there.

“He made an agreement with Tom Lincoln, a distiller, that if he would



marry the girl, and take care of her and the boy, he would give him five hundred dollars, and a wagon and team. Lincoln married her, but failed to comply with the agreement with Enloe, in properly providing for the couple. There was no floor in the house, and it was reported that she had to sleep on a pine straw bed. Moreover, **he was brutal in his treatment of both Nancy and the child.** He was jealous, too, and would get drunk, and take his spite out in beating little Abe. And when Nancy interfered he beat her.

“Uncle refused to pay him the full amount, and they had trouble. Lincoln got drunk and threatened to kill Enloe, and they got into a fight. Enloe was a large, tall man and Lincoln was a short, heavy, muscular man. They fought just like bull dogs. Old Lincoln got Uncle down and bit off the end of his nose.

“They afterwards made friends and the matter was compromised by my uncle paying Lincoln fifteen dollars in money, and a mare and a mule.

“After Abe Lincoln became President, he went back to Kentucky to see the Thompsons where he and his mother had stayed before she was married. He asked Mrs. Thompson if there was anything that he could do for her. She said she didn’t know of anything that he could do for her, but if he wanted to he might do something for her son. And President Lincoln gave this Thompson an important office in connection with Indian affairs.

“He did this, notwithstanding Thompson was a Democrat.”

As the lawyer would say, “It is *prima facie* evidence,’ this generous act on the part of Lincoln, that he was anxious to be able to repay a debt of some special kindness of which he had been

a beneficiary in days past. If he was not able to remember the earlier days, he doubtless had gotten some confidential statement from his mother and the neighbors as to what Mrs. Thompson had been to him and his mother. In fact, the Thompsons' was doubtless a place of "Refuge" when he was a little fellow. It was the place where he could go for sympathy and love. For they knew who he was. Mrs. Thompson knew that this was her half-brother, and when he was hungry she fed him.

And we have every reason to believe that after his own dear mother died, that it was his sister, this Mrs. Thompson, that took him to her home and helped to dry his tears and ease his aching heart; and he could not forget all these things when he became the President of the United States.

At the close of this patriarch's talk out in his apple orchard, he straight-

ened up and said, "Now, Jim, if you don't believe what I say about this Lincoln ancestry, you go home and ask your mother, and she will tell you just what I have."

I had been held spellbound for an hour, while this old white haired man rehearsed in an intensive and thrilling, and at times in a very eloquent manner, this story of Abraham Lincoln's true ancestry.

No one who ever knew this old man, would for one moment entertain the remotest idea that he had any selfish motive in giving this story.

My mother, I soon discovered, was familiar with the above tradition, but had never mentioned it to any of her children. Upon being asked in regard to it she answered apologetically, "Well, Jim, the old people were all ashamed of it. But my father thought lots of his uncle Enloe. He was a man



of prominence and good standing, and we considered this a blot on his name. Yes, it's all true, Abraham Lincoln was a son of Abraham Enloe."

It does seem that the early biographers could have gotten the name of Nancy Hanks' father, if they had so desired.

But there would have been a jail record for the maternal grandfather of the President and hence the name of **William Hanks**, Nancy's father, was omitted from history. But his name was certainly as worthy of recognition as that of Thomas Lincoln, for he too got drunk and abused his family and failed to properly provide for them.

Writers and public speakers, at times, are wont to show how something great can spring forth from something very insignificant, and they often point to "Christ who was born in a manger," or "Abraham Lincoln born in a log

cabin," as examples. But the truth is, it matters not so much about the external surroundings as it does the internal nature of the thing that is born.

Jesus was far greater than man, **not because He was born in a manger, but because He was the Son of God.** His determining factor lay in the **Family Tree and not in His cradle;** His ancestry was equal to the exalted life He lived, the claims He made and the work He did among men and for men. And the logical necessity demanding a supernatural pedigree for Jesus is only met in the report of the Gospels that such a thing did really happen.

### **A Study in Psychology.**

We claim that the same law of psychological cause and effect holds good in regard to Lincoln or any one else.

Abraham Lincoln was a born book-lover. He had an insatiable appetite for books. In fact, some have called

him, "a glutton for books." And is there not back of him a great **vacuum which demands a booklover as his true ancestor?** And do not the eternal laws of logic compel us to look carefully for some one to fill this vacancy, to satisfy this great equation of character and intellect? As the man Joseph was not able to satisfy the logical relationship demanded in Christ, so it is also true that the Thomas-Lincoln-Family-Tree did not raise the "Abe Lincoln" kind of fruit. They were known as Link-horns in Virginia, and said to be a very ignorant and low class of folks.

It is said that in all probability young **Abe changed the name**, and this is doubtless true, since Thomas Lincoln could neither read nor write. In fact, he was greatly opposed to what he called "eddication."

When called upon by Mr. W. G. Green soon after Mr. Lincoln had gone to Con-

gress, Thomas Lincoln is reported as saying, "I s'pose Abe's still a-foolin' his self with eddication. I tried to stop it, but he's got that fool idee in his head an' it can't be got out. Now, I haint got no eddication, but I git along better than if I had." **This despiser of books and "eddication" was not the real father of Abraham Lincoln.**

Mr. Cathey makes it a point in his book to show the "great strength" of the Enloe family, naming and giving the pictures of many who have distinguished themselves as Congressmen, judges, and physicians. These all had back of them the old Scotch school teachers; and this was the source of the intellectual genius of Lincoln.

### **Why Lincoln Was Partial and Brutal.**

From the fact that different authors say upon good testimony, that Thomas Lincoln was **"brutal in his treatment"** of this boy, although his step-mother,



the second Mrs. Lincoln, is quoted as saying,—

“I had a son John, who was raised with Abe. Both were good boys, but I must say, both being now dead, that Abe was the best boy I ever saw or ever expect to see.” This is strong corroboration of the truthfulness of the Buncombe Tradition,—that Lincoln did not regard this child as his own.

“Thomas Lincoln,” says Wayne Wipple, “was **moody**,” and very “**restless**.” Had there not been enough in his past life in his experiences with Enloe to make a man restless? When he looked into the face of little Abe he saw the facsimile of the man he had fought with and whose nose he had bit off. When he went out to the shed to feed his horse or mule, he was again reminded of his trade with Enloe, when **he had traded for his wife, Nancy, and got little Abe thrown in for good**

**measure.** He was no account or he would not have been willing to enter into such an agreement to start with. Enloe's ghost haunted Tom Lincoln, and drove him to the verge of an insane jealousy.

Could there have been an examination of the most painstaking kind conducted, there would not have been found even the smallest psychological germ of such things, as the "Gettysburg Address," and other great mental products in the mind of Thomas Lincoln, who looked upon "edification" as a curse and not a blessing. And offspring is mental, not physical.

Our task is completed, and the verdict is now for the jury to render, according to the evidence that has been submitted in the case that has long been a great puzzle to the world; as to why Thomas Lincoln was "partial to his step-children," and "would take

little Abe out of school upon the slightest pretext," while other members of the family would join in begging that he might be permitted to go; and as to why this child and his mother were treated so cruelly; why such partiality, yea, why such brutality!

According to this story, the distinguished honor of being the father of Abraham Lincoln was **undesired by Thomas Lincoln, was undeserved, unwittingly and unworthily bestowed, per force of circumstances, affording a very striking example of the old Latin dictum, that "some people have their honors thrust upon them!"**

**What think ye of Abraham Lincoln?  
Whose son was he?**

**I believe the honest reader will agree, from the evidence herein offered, that Abraham Lincoln was a North Carolinian.**

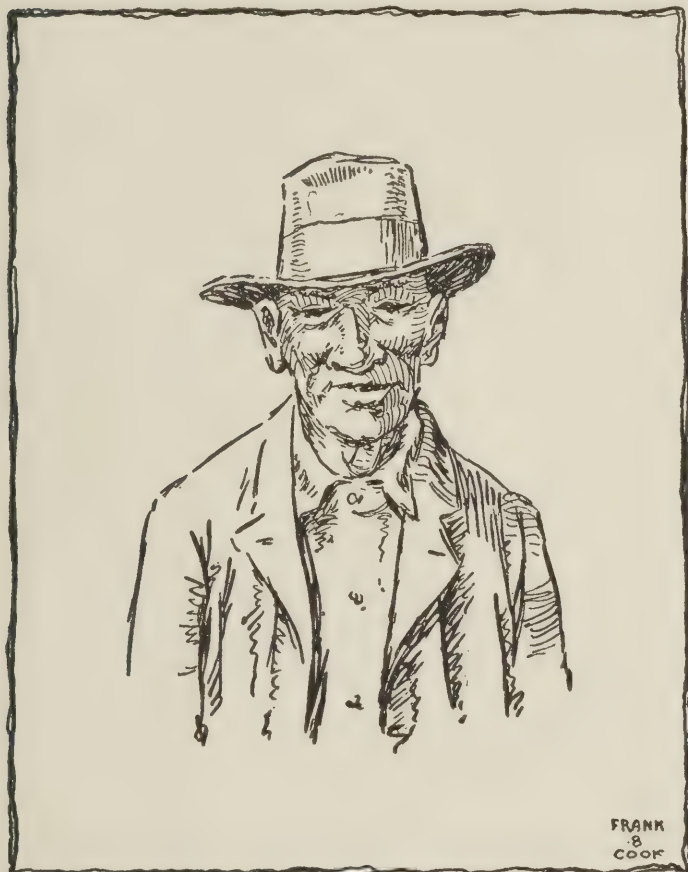
## BERRY HOWELL

We here present a picture, secured just before the book came from the press, of an old colored man who was raised by Wesley Enloe, youngest son of Abraham Enloe, father of Abraham Lincoln.

"Uncle Berry" is held in the very highest esteem by the people of Bryson City, where he resides. He is about eighty years old and is usually busy working for some of his white friends.

He said: "I knowd all the Enloes, the brothers and sisters of my master, but I never saw their father, Abraham, as I can remember. But I often heard them speakin' about Abraham Enloe moving from Rutherford county. When he moved to this county he brought along a girl by the name of 'Nancy Hanker' an' she stayed in Enloe's family till she was grown, when a child





**BERRY HOWELL**

“Uncle Berry” is a remarkable old colored man. He is patriotic and deeply religious. He has raised 14 children, 10 sons, and registered eight of his boys to help Uncle Sam save the democracy of the world in the late war.

was born and they named it Abraham. The people all said that Enloe wuz its wuz born and they named it Abraham. that this caused in Mr. Enloe's home he sent her and the child to Kentucky, where Nancy Hanker married a man by the name of Lincoln. My master wuz good to me. I never lacked for anything to eat or wear an' if I got in trouble, fightin' sometimes, he would always help me out. He'd tell me to never take anything that didn't belong to me, an' always be polite, but to not let anybody run over me an' abuse me. I had lots of friends among the good white folks. Some of the Niggers gave me a little trouble sometimes. I'll tell ye how it wuz. When we Niggers wuz freed my old master came to me one day an' said, Berry; an' I said yes, master, an' he said, now, you's a free man now, an' there's going to be a lection soon, an' course you can vote

jus' same as I can. Your vote counts jus' the same as mine. You can vote jus' as you please, but I spec to vote the Democratic ticket, an' course I'd be glad if you would vote like I do.

“Well, I thinks the matter over, an' I said that man has raised me fum a little Nigger five year old, an' he's been good to me; he's clothed me an' fed me an' given me a good home, an' a fine horse for my own. I love my old master an' all his folks, an' I am not going to kill my master's vote. This Nigger specs to vote the Democratic ticket as long as he lives, an' I have voted the Democratic ticket all my life since that time.

“Some folks say a Nigger has no soul, but I know I have a soul, for I have a conscience, an' know right fum wrong, an' a brute has no conscience.

“Another reason I know a Nigger

has a soul is that the white folks would not spend so much money trying to educate the darkey if he has no soul. I knows it!

“I never learned to write an’ the reason wuz that I heard about some darkeys that could write, an’ they forged some white man’s name to a check an’ were put in jail, an’ I decided I didn’t want to learn for fear I might be tempted to do the same thing.”















